Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Merton B. Tice, Jr. was born on March 31, 1943, at Ft. Benning, Georgia, grew up in Mitchell, South Dakota, and attained an undergraduate degree and law degree from The University of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Merton and wife, Connie, have two children, Elizabeth and Merton III, and their lives have been further blessed by one grandchild and a second one soon to be born; and,

Whereas, After graduation from law school, Merton served as a law clerk for the South Dakota Supreme Court from 1969-1970, was Special Prosecutor for Pennington County and Rapid City from 1970-1973, held the City Attorney position for Rapid City from 1972-1973, was Municipal Judge for Rapid City from 1973-1974, and elected as Circuit Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, serving from 1975 until the present; and,

Whereas, Judge Tice has sat with the South Dakota Supreme Court on appeals when a permanent Justice was disqualified due to a conflict of interest on a particular case, many of which were high-profile cases; and,

Whereas, Judge Tice has proposed or sponsored the enactment or change of several state statutes, which include the mandatory arrest in domestic violence cases, enhanced permanency planning for children, limited corporal punishment in schools, and requirement of parents to participate in counseling for their children; and,

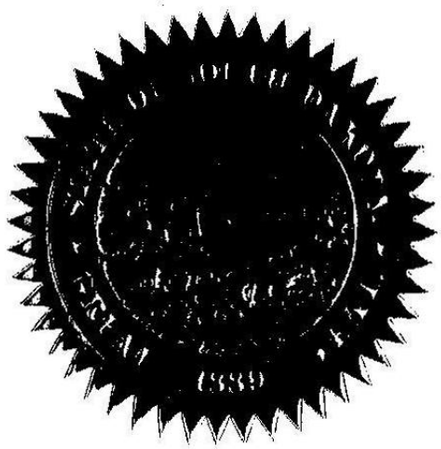
Whereas, Judge Tice is a charter member, co-founder, chairman, or active member of local, state, and national committees, programs, organizations, and associations too numerous to list, but suffice to say his contributions of time and expertise to community service have been significant over the last several decades; and,

Whereas, Judge Tice will retire on January 8, 2010, from a distinguished career of enforcement of the laws governing the state of South Dakota, and he will be honored at an open house at the Pennington County Courthouse:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 8, 2010, as

JUDGE MERTON B. TICE, JR. DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his colleagues, friends, and family as they recognize and congratulate him on a long and successful career, and also wish him a long, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State